

Dear Robin Tuddenham,

We note that it has now been several months since Jan Gibson left Calderdale Council, and as far as we are aware, there are no Rights of Way officers employed at present, beyond an assistant in the team.

Calderdale has one of the most dense network of public paths and bridleways in the country, a feature about which we should be proud. Less than ten years ago, these important routes through our countryside were managed by seven members of the Rights of Way team. We understand the fact that cuts have had to be made in recent years, but the current situation is unacceptable and completely unsustainable.

Several upper valley councils and stakeholder groups such as Ride Calderdale and CROWS have been meeting over the last few months to look at solutions to the issue created by a minority of mountain bikers using footpaths inappropriately. Although officers from CMBC have attended and have provided useful input, there is only so much that can be achieved without the support of a dedicated Rights of Way officer. The fact that progress is being stymied is frustrating to us, and surely to other groups and residents in Calderdale who are dealing with issues relating to public rights of way.

We urge you to consider recruitment into the Rights of Way team as a matter of urgent priority, and request that you keep us updated on progress.

Yours sincerely

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Clerk to Blackshaw Parish Council